



Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2014-2015

Department of Defense (DoD) Sites Cleanup Program

Overview

The goal of the DoD program is to address the cleanup of pollutants at military facilities. The program is accomplished in partnership with the Defense Department through the use of the Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA). This agreement between the State and the DoD describes anticipated work, billing and cost recovery by the state for the work, and tracking of progress.

Water Board accomplishes work at the sites by:

- Reviewing and commenting on technical reports covering site characterization and remedial actions;
- Participating in public outreach and education through public meetings such as the community Restoration Advisory Boards;
- Focusing on achieving site cleanup in compliance with Water Quality requirements; and
- Tracking of cleanup progress and oversight costs through the GeoTracker and Daily Log data systems.

We review DoD work for the purpose of:

- Identifying Water Board requirements for each site/proposed action (called Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements – ARARs);
- Ensuring site investigations and cleanup decisions comply with State laws, regulations and policies;
- Concurring with DoD decision documents if action complies with State requirements; and
- Completing CEQA if State lead agency.

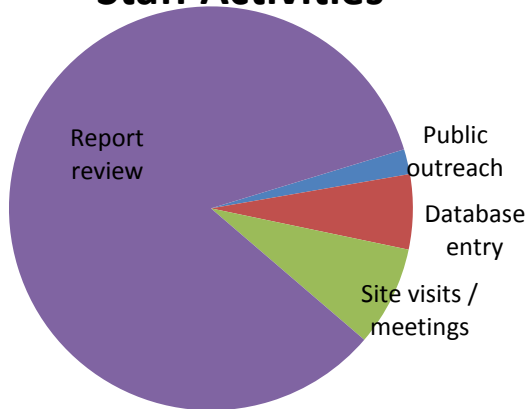
Information is shared with the public primarily by updates to the program website maintained by State Board, data entered into GeoTracker, and through public meetings held by the facilities.

Goals

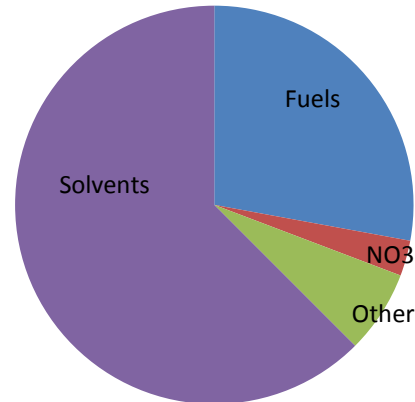
Each military facility implements an Installation Restoration Program for the purposes of cleaning up past discharges to protect health and the environment. Program priorities are human health protection by controlling exposure to contaminant sources, controlling plume movement and cleanup of the environment. The DoD produces site investigation and cleanup feasibility reports, ultimately leading to decision documents for each site. Water Board staff review the documents and provide comments to the DoD with the goal of ensuring state requirements are met during cleanup by the military. Because cleanup at many DoD sites may take several years, yearly targets are not established in for DoD sites, however site closure and other measures are tracked for progress and are discussed in *Accomplishments*, below. Document reviews should be done timely such that the overall cleanup schedule set by the DoD is met. Site data is entered by staff into GeoTracker, the state's cleanup sites database. GeoTracker is available for the public to view site information.

There are 575 active sites in the DoD program. These sites include primarily solvent and petroleum contamination. Contamination from pesticides, metals, fuels, nitrate and pyrotechnic chemicals are also found. Sites are located at the following facilities: • George Air Force Base (GAFB), Victorville • Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), Lancaster • China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (CLNAWS), Ridgecrest • Air Force Plant No. 42 (AFP 42), Palmdale • Fort Irwin National Training Center (Ft. Irwin NTC), Barstow • Marine Corps Logistics Base - Yermo and Nebo Annexes (MCLB), Barstow • Sierra Army Depot (SIAD), Susanville • Bridgeport Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (Bridgeport MWTC), Bridgeport. There are approximately 6.3 PYs assigned to DoD work this FY.

Staff Activities



Contaminants



Accomplishments

- Completed a Record of Decision (ROD) for cleanup of 18 sites at MCLB completed and being implemented. Currently negotiating a ROD for GAFB OU-5 expected to be completed this FY.
- Worked with Navy staff at China Lake to evaluate data for de-designation of the municipal and domestic groundwater beneficial use designated in the Basin Plan for groundwater basins naturally high in total dissolved solids that will aid in setting more appropriate cleanup levels.
- Ongoing work with DoD staff and local agency staff regarding land use restrictions that are needed as part of remedy implementation.

Challenges

- Land Use Controls (LUCs) established when property was transferred to the City from the former GAFB have not been consistently complied with and may not be providing protection of the public. LUCs are put in place to minimize public or worker exposure to high risk areas or activities. Staff has requested the Air Force address violations observed at former GAFB. Additional work with DoD staff and local agency staff regarding land use restrictions is needed as part of remedy implementation.
- Cleanup work at the DoD facilities is now focused on sites hardest to cleanup. Groundwater and soil contaminant plumes are large and site geology is complex, leading to difficult and expensive long term cleanups.
- Formal Dispute Resolution is in progress at EAFB to elevate issues regarding appropriate standards to use for risk calculation, where there is disagreement between the DoD and the oversight agencies.

Performance measures for the year – Progress to date

Number of sites closed: 5 (2 more closures anticipated this FY)